## Summer of gay raids

Activists fighting a bust at an Ohio gay bar win a victory; cases in Iowa, Mich., are still pending

By Chris Nealon

LIMA, Ohio — Flatly discrediting the actions of the local police department, a municipal judge here dismissed all charges against 41 patrons of a gay bar in Lima. In a June 10 raid, police had entered the Office Bar, ordered patrons to get down on the floor, and charged them with "lewdness." Male dancers, who were stripped down to "T-bar" loincloths, had been performing in one room of the bar.

Ruling Sept. 19 that the local "disorderly house" ordinance is unconstitutionally vague, Judge William B. Lauber also charged the police department with violating due process in the raid. The decision comes at the end of a summer marked by high-profile police interventions into gay activities, including a two-month video surveillance of gay men in Adrian, Mich., and a massive raid of the Midwest Men's Festival in Iowa on Aug. 27 (see GCN, Sept. 15-21, 1990).

The police action in Lima has galvanized the community, giving rise to outrage and sparking the formation of a new lesbian and gay civil rights group. Janet Piechocki, a member of the just-formed Stonewall Northwest Ohio, told GCN she was not surprised by Lauber's ruling. "I think [he] had no choice in the matter," she said, adding that the only evidence the police department came up with after two appearances in court was a description of the bar's male dancers. The prosecution "was grasping at straws," said Piechocki.

Jerry Bunge, chair of the Gay/Lesbian Rights Project of the Ohio American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), agreed with Piechocki that the ruling was not especially startling. He added, however, that "the surprise — the warning — that came out of all this is that gay and lesbian people will not be silent." Bunge, pointing to "a lot of annoyance and disbelief" among gay men and lesbians, said he thought the raid demonstrated to the community "that we're not just going to be given our rights — we have to fight for them."

Other observers said they thought the raid would mark a turning point in the local political scene because the police action was so overtly hostile. Loretta Mikolaj, the director the Ohio ACLU project, told GCN that police arrived at the bar wearing rubber gloves and demanding that the patrons get down on the floor. Mikolaj said that according to witnesses, officers forced one woman to lie down even though she had recently fractured her pelvis and was using crutches to walk. Upon entering the bar, one officer reportedly said "this is an AIDS-infected place," according to Mikolaj.

Not exactly liberal

"It's like being in the Stone Age," said Piechocki. "They're picking on gays." She added that local media coverage has been decidedly anti-gay. One paper, she said, referred to an "ongoing investigation" of the Office Bar that didn't exist; and other coverage "made it sound like everybody in the place was having sex."

Part of the difficulty, said Mikolaj, is that Lima "is not exactly a bastion of liberal thinking." The small, rural town, across the border from Fort Wayne, Ind., in northwest Ohio, has a history of conservative politics, particularly where the police department is concerned. Mikolaj noted that only nine months ago, a Black parents' group was harassed in Lima.

In addition, Bunge commented, the town government tried to close down Lima's one other gay bar in 1987 on "nuisance" charges.

The problem of harassment by Lima law officers has led to the recent formation of a mayor's task force on police brutality. Mikolaj said that people involved in the bar raid have been asked to participate in the anti-harassment work, a "nice" indication that lesbian and gay voices are beginning to make themselves heard in Lima.

Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) told GCN that she thought the important aspect of the fracas in Lima was not the police intervention, but the community's response to it. "The exciting news out of Lima is that lesbians and gay men, like the drag queens of Stonewall, are organizing around this bar raid and taking up the cry that they will no longer be compliant victims," said Hyde.

'A witchhunt against gay sex'

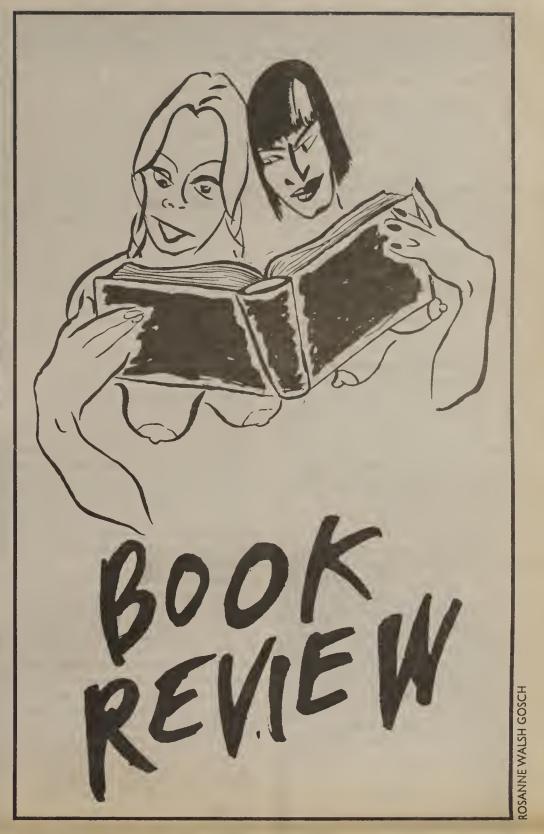
The police operation in Lima is only one in flurry of anti-gay interventions that shook the Midwest this summer. Just over the Ohio border in Adrian, Mich., police arrested 17 men in June for public indecency, culminating a two-and- a half month long surveillance of gay men in Adrian's Island Park. During the investigation, Adrian police hid in a four-foot deep foxhole with video cameras and taped men having sex with each other.

Eileen Sheff, an attorney for one of the men arrested in the Adrian operation, called the police surveillance "a witchhunt against gay sex." She told *GCN* that her client, a 51-year-old man, had just been convicted and faced 40 to 60 months in jail, "essentially for having consensual sex." Another man arrested in the raid lost his job on the local school board after a newspaper printed the names and addresses of the 17 men. "This is ruining people's lives," said Sheff.

Later in the summer, Iowa and Missouri authorities launched a massive raid of a gay men's outdoor festival in Boone County, Iowa, bringing 18 police cars and a helicopter to the campout, along with agents from the FBI.

In Iowa, where the dust has not yet settled on the FBI raid, a judge ruled in early September that the Boone County sheriff's office could distribute the names of the gay men who participated in this year's festival to other law enforcement agencies, "as part of a legitimate law enforcement operation."

Continued on page 3



## Marlboro/Miller boycott getting mixed reception

Some bar owners won't pull products

By Chris Nealon

NEW YORK — Supporters of the anti-Sen. Jesse Helms (R. -N.C.) boycott of Miller beer continue to claim success around the country, despite criticism of the tactic, and resistance to direct participation on the part of bar owners. The boycott, initially declared April 26 against Marlboro cigarettes, expanded in July to include Miller beer. Both Miller and Marlboro are owned by the Philip Morris corporation, which is among the largest donors to Helms' 1990 reelection campaign.

The shift to boycotting Miller significantly increased the momentum of the anti-Helms effort. At the same time, however, the new emphasis created debates within lesbian and gay communities because Miller is a separate company from Philip Morris, although Philip Morris owns it. Marlboro, on the other hand, is directly produced by Philip Morris.

Opponents of the Miller boycott argue that although Miller is owned by Philip Morris, the beer company has independently taken a friendly stance towards lesbian and gay communities by sponsoring public lesbian and gay events, and making donations to gay and AIDS service organizations. Supporters of the Miller boycott, however, claim that Miller must be at least partly responsible to the politics of its parent company. Pro-boycott advocates also dispute whether Miller's donations amount to much. Debate still goes on over the exact breakdown of those donations, and to what degree they collapse gay-specific causes and AIDS-relates causes.

The boycott's tally of successes and failures continues to fluctuate. Organizers of the anti-Helms effort say that the most recent list of participating cities includes over 60 locations, and that the number grows daily. Boycott supporters also point to the recent charges filed against them by Helms' allies as proof that pro-Helms forces are genuinely threatened by the boycott. (The Conservative Campaign Fund, a political action committee, charged Aug. 6 that the boycott violated Federal Election Comission regulations. See

GCN, Sept. 8-14, 1990.)

In addition, representatives of the Miller Brewing Company issued a statement saying that the corporation "disagrees with Jesse Helms on human rights issues" after a Sacramento, Calif., meeting with ACT UP/San Francisco Aug. 28.

Meanwhile, however, supporters of the boycott have encountered resistance to the effort from owners of gay bars. Some bar owners say they don't want to hurt their local distributor; others argue that they want the choice of whether or not to boycott to be left up to their customers.

In particular, bar owners in Chicago and Washington, D.C. largely rejected ACT UP's demand that they stop scrving Miller. ACT UP chapters in those two cities held meetings in August with groups of owners.

"Moving right along"

In New York, which has become the center of production for pro-boycott graphics and literature, boycott supporters say the effort has firmly taken hold. Frank Smithson of ACT UP/New York, a boycott organizer, told GCN that purchasing Miller is frowned upon in the city. "It's worse than wearing a fur," he said, referring to the anti-fur campaigns of animal rights organizations.

Smithson said he accepted the various criticisms of the boycott, but that he saw the effort as serving an effective political purpose. "People say, 'It could have been more thought out.' Yes, it could have. They say, 'Couldn't you have found a better target?' Yes, we could have." But, he said, "every boycott takes on luggage, more luggage than you want to carry."

In the meantime, said Smithson, "We're moving right along." He said that despite considerable exhaustion on the part of organizers, they had high hopes for the boycott's effect on the November elections. Helping to unseat Helms, he said, "would be the ultimate victory."

—filed from Boston

#### **NEWSNOTES**

#### Quote of the week

"After listening to Judge Souter's testimony, we remain intensely concerned that, if confirmed, he would destroy 17 years of precedent and cast the deciding vote to overrule Roe v. Wade."

-Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League, in Senate hearings on the confirmation of David Souter as a Supreme Court Justice. Michelman was joined by Faye Wattleton of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund in opposing Souter. They were challenged by a number of senators, including Arlen Spector (R-Penn.), who told them that it was unrealistic to expect that the Bush administration would put forward any candidate who expressed support for Roe v. Wade, the 1973 case that established the constitutional right to abortion.

Both the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced their opposition to Souter as a Supreme Court Justice last week. In a statement, NGLTF Director Urvashi Vaid cited a 1987 ruling in which Souter concurred that gay and lesbian people are not "appropriate role models for children." Said Vaid, "The court opted for prejudice over truth."



Australians rallied against the gulf war, Sept. 1

#### Thousands join in Sydney anti-war protest

SYDNEY — Gay men and lesbians were well represented at a "No Gulf War" rally in front of the United States consulate here, Sept. 1. Following the action, several thousand demonstrators marched through the city to protest Australia's involvement in the Middle East oil barons' fight.

Enola Gay, a gay anti-militarist group, said that while lesbians and gay men have no reason to support any of the governments in that region because they are all undemocratic, sexist and heterosexist, gay people have a duty to oppose imperialist intervention and prevent war. For that reason, the ENOLA GAY banner was carried high by members of the Gay Solidarity Group, and supported by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

An eyewitness noted that the electronic media seemed especially interested in the lesbians and gay demonstrators, milling around them and trying to record their chants of "1,2,3,4,/we don't want Bush's war/5,6,7,8/ out of the gulf, United States."

Kendall Lovett

#### Hate groups attack gay resort

SAUGATUCK, Mich. - Members of the gay community here are keeping quiet after a flurry of homophobic activity organized by white supremacist organizations. Saugatuck, a popular gay resort area, has become the target of the Iron Guard of Holland (a nearby town) and the White Reunification Project.

Members of the two groups have been driving through Saugatuck tossing leaflets

at gay pedestrians. According to the lesbian and gay newspaper *Heartland*, one flyer, called, "ERA," "contained a sexually graphic depiction of a Black woman and a white man, who was labelled a 'liberal.'" Another leaflet depicted a drawing of a person with AIDS along with text that reads, in part: "You boldly made a choice as to which lifestyle you were gonna pursue. Well, looks like you went the wrong way, now doesn't it?"

In an interview, a member of the two organizations said that they would not become more militant in the town "unless [lesbians and gay men] become militant ... by having a few of them come up to us on a street corner and harass us or something."

Chris Nealon

#### Gay labor group to hold meeting on CLT

BOSTON-The Citizens for Limited Taxation petition to slash state spending will be the subject of a community-wide meeting next week. Critics charge that the proposal, which will appear as ballot Question #3 in November, would result in massive service cuts. The forum, called by the Gay and Lesbian Labor Activist Network (GALLAN), will discuss the ballot initiative and develop strategies to combat

"Question 3 will disproportionately affect lesbians and gay men," said Harneen Chernow of GALLAN. "It will gut the services that we use, like AIDS Action and Fenway Community Health Center," Chernow told GCN, adding, "There will be massive layoffs in the human service sector, which affects the kind of jobs a lot of lesbians have, as social workers, teachers, workers with elderly and disabled people, etc." The meeting will be held Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Laura Briggs

#### ACT UP slams MCAD head

BOSTON—Charging that the head of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) does not process AIDS discrimination cases quickly enough, ACT UP/Boston held a Sept. 13 demonstration calling for the director's resignation.

While about two dozen protesters picketed outside the state offices, inside ACT UP representatives held a noon meeting with director Alex Rodriguez, whom they called

Activists charge that recent budget cuts have had a differential effect on AIDS cases, which are "shunted to the bottom of the pile." ACT UP members claim that federal funding and quotas for housing and employment discrimination cases results in priority for those kinds of complaints. As a consequence, ACT UP said in a statement, few MCAD staff resources are dedicated to resolving disability-related civil rights vio-

According to the Boston Globe, Rodriguez acknowledged that the average complaint (not necessarily AIDS-related) takes over 400 days to resolve. However, Rodriguez refused to accept blame for the delays, citing instead the state government's fiscal crisis.

Laura Briggs

#### Castro Halloween fete targeted

SAN FRANCISCO — As Halloween approaches, a fundamentalist Christian leader has declared war on the lesbians and gay men who participate each year in the Castro district's huge Halloween celebration. Texas minister Larry Lea has scheduled a massive prayer session, designed to combat "unbiblical" activities, for Oct. 31 at the Civic Auditorium.

According to the Sentinel, a Bay Area lesbian and gay newspaper, Lea told his followers in August that "we need to reverse the curse on Halloween night ... this is not just kids having fun. There is actual worship of the devil going on."

As many as 100,000 people have joined in the Castro's celebration in recent years. Leaders of the area's Community United Against Violence are urging those who attend the party to avoid confrontation and to remain with at least one other person.

Chris Nealon

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The photo that caused the ruckus: Pam Voekel (L), Danalynn Recer and Rob Nash, Derek Roberts

#### Radical politics surge on **U.** of Texas campus

Inspired by demonstrations against racism last spring, several progressive groups pressure the administration to change curricula and policies. On the gay front, lesbians spearhead the new activism -- which some campus queers find extreme

By David Morris

AUSTIN -- "QUEERS kiss for UT action" read the headline, and the large photograph beside it on page one of the student newspaper at the University of Texas (UT) showed two same-sex couples embracing passionately in broad daylight on the crowded campus. The Daily Texan further reported that during the two-hour rally gay activist Derek Roberts told the large audience of students and professors that he liked "anally penetrating his lover" — although Roberts claims what he really said was that he enjoys "having a man's dick up my ass."

the connections between people of color, women and gays and lesbians," she added, "because all of us are under attack that

During the anti-racism protests, the Black Students Association (BSA) issued a list of demands — the Proposed Reforms to Institute Diversity in Education (PRIDE) which called for changes in the curricula and administration of the university. Chicano and Asian students followed PRIDE with Orientaciones Nuevas para la Diversificacion de la Educacion (ONDA - New Directions for the Diversification of Education) and the



The new Liberation Education shanty stands next to the anti-apartheid shanty

Society (QUEERS), was followed two days later by an equally provocative fashion show and safe-sex demonstration that featured leather-clad lesbians with a dildo teaching straight students how to use a condom.

Within 24 hours of the kiss-in, several of the participants, as well as the student newspaper's reporter who had covered the action, received anonymous telephone calls threatening physical violence. Texan editor Kevin McHargue recalled similar threatening calls last spring after the paper ran stories about campus racism. "Apparently, the racists and the homophobes have the same phone book," he told GCN.

But racists and homophobes are also meeting the same kind of organized opposition, in the form of an unprecedented level of lesbian and gay politics on campus. The new gay activism is inspired in large part by the massive, angry demonstrations against racism that were held earlier this year.

Last spring's actions were in response to an increasingly racist atmosphere on campus and, specifically, to open displays of racism by fraternity members at the annual spring Round Up parade. (Danalyn Recer, a law student and member of the Gay and Lesbian Students Association (GLSA), told GCN that every year during Round Up week, the incidence of gay-bashing, date rape and racist harassment increases. "It makes very clear

The August 29 kiss-in, organized by Asian Agenda, and feminist and gay groups Queers United in Envisioning an Egalitarian have since issued their own manifestos. (One purpose of the kiss-in and the rally was to present to students and to the administration the gay manifesto, which called for gay courses, the inclusion of gay topics in university curricula in general, the creation of a gay studies center, the recruitment and retention of gay students and faculty, and other

All of the documents demand greater representation in course work and campus life for the diverse communities that make up the 50,000-strong student body and the society at

The university's only response so far has been to change a required English composition course to one of pro and con debate on court decisions affecting minority groups. But that change was cancelled during the summer, after pressure from conservatives, mostly professors in the School of Engineering and members of the National Association of Scholars.

Two other events this year have contributed more specifically to political ferment among lesbians and gay men at the university. Last January, the American Association of Law Schools ruled that member schools must include sexual orientation in their anti-discrimination policies, thus adding a final push to a campaign students had been waging for several years. Although UT complied in early August with a university-wide policy, it Continued on back page

#### **Abortion clinic bombed**

No one is injured in the blast, but the police have no leads in the case. Pro-choice advocates attribute the incident to a growing tolerance for actions by anti-abortionists

By Laura Briggs

WORCESTER, Mass — A Planned Parenthood clinic here was firebombed Sept. 12. An unidentified man, carrying materials for five Molotov cocktails, exploded one in an attempt to break open the office's door. While no one was injured, the incident has left state reproductive health facilities that perform abortions anxious about security. Though no anti-abortion group has claimed responsibility for the bombing, pro-choice activists say that the continuous harassment of Massachusetts clinics has led to a climate in which such behavior is tolerated.

The man, of whom police say they have only a general physical description, entered an office building in Worcester at about 6:45 a.m.; it is unknown how he got in. According to police, the guard at the door did not see anyone arrive after 5 p.m. After attempting to break the door with a hammer, the man lit a Molotov cocktail. A cleaning woman inside the 6th floor office began shouting, and the man fled, leaving behind materials for four other bombs.

The clinic opened as scheduled at 8:30 a.m. According to clinic director Wendy Gates, the hallway had to be cleaned of kerosene and the door was cracked. "The staff was pretty shaken up. But what they want is to close us down, and it was important to open up that morning," she told GCN. "Things like this just seem to strengthen people's resolve to stay," said Gates.

The clinic is now employing 24-hour security personnel. "Every time something happens, you review your security precautions," said Susan Newsom of the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts. "We want women to know that they can come into our clinics safely," she told GCN, adding, "You are always running this fine line between being a fortress and being a medical

Police say they have no suspects in the bombing, but detective Captain Gallagher told GCN that they were "possibly" seeking an anti-abortionist. "It is more than likely someone with an interest in the organiza-

"It disturbs me when I hear the anti-abortion people tell the media that they are holding peaceful demonstrations and they just want to save babies," said Gates. "You don't make bombs unless you are prepared for people to get hurt."

"You want to put it off to some sort of maniac fringe," said Sheryl Schreph, director of Boston's Preterm clinic, who said she was considering increasing security there. "The scary thing is that I do not think that is the case," she told GCN, adding, "The people who work [at clinics] are part of a movement for social change. They put their lives on the

"Violence does not happen in a vaccuum, it happens in a context," said Susan Yano of Boston's Reproductive Rights Network (R2N2). "There is a tendency to say that it must be a crazy person," she told GCN. "But it's like gay-bashing—gay-bashing does not happen because of the actions of a crazy person, it happens because there is a context of homophobia.

This is the first firebombing in

Massachusetts since the early '70s when Women's Health Services in Boston was hit, according to Newsom. The extremist antiabortion group that has been very active locally and nationally, Operation Rescue (OR), "has given license to anyone who wants to commit violence against a clinic," Newsom told GCN.

There is currently an injunction in Massachusetts (as well as in New York City and Atlanta) against Operation Rescue, prohibiting members of the group from blocking access to a medical facility. Pro-choice activists charge that the injunction has resulted merely in a facclift for the group, many of whose members have reappeared at "prayer vigils" outside Massachusetts clinics. Other anti-abortionists, suggested Ellen Convissor, president of the Boston chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), may be becoming more extreme.

"There's all kinds of splitting in the anti-abortion movement right now," Convisser told GCN. "We can't separate off the OR people from the bombing, any more than wc can separate them from the people doing prayer vigils in front of the clinics. They are all intricately linked, just as they are linked to Citizens for Family First," the anti-gay rights group. "The climate has become more tolerant to these people who are 'just' holding prayer vigils. When we tolerate the behavior, we encourage it," she said.

The clinic, which is the only facility in central Massachusetts providing abortions, and is one of five in the state that offers services to low-income women who rely on Medicaid, has been the target of stepped-up anti-abortion activity in the last few months. Eleven men were arrested at the clinic Aug. 22; they had entered Planned Parenthood pretending to be the partners of women seeking services and linked themselves together with bicycle locks around their necks. Women have also been harassed by picketers outside the clinic every Saturday since July, according to Gates. In response, Worcester NOW has organized escorts for women entering the clinic, and the Worcester Coalition for Choice recently ran a full page signature ad in a local paper that read "We're pro-choice and we vote.'

While Gates praised the work of prochoice activists, she thought more organizing still needed to happen in central Massachusetts. "It has been very helpful to our patients, very comforting to have a prochoice presence." But, she added, "A lot of people say to me privately that they are prochoice, but putting some action behind those words still has a long way to go.'

Local media gave short shrift to the firebombing. The Worcester Telegram and Gazette ran a front page article, but neither of the two Boston daily papers covered the event. The Boston public radio news station also ignored the incident. While news editors at the Boston Globe, Herald, and WBUR failed to return GCN's calls by press time, city desk workers at both dailies suggested that Worcester was "very far" from Boston.

"It's not just a Worcester issue," said Gates. "It's not just a Massachusetts issue. It's a national issue." She added, "We need to join together to fight these people."

#### Raids Continued from page 1

"God knows what that means," commented Michael Currant of the Iowa Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus, who said he was suspicious of how the list might be used. Currant added, however, that the Iowa Civil Liberties Union (ICLU) filed a brief Sept. 19 challenging the sheriff's department's possession of the list, and said that a ruling is expected next

Blossoming resistance

In the aftermath of these incidents, lesbian and gay activists are forging ahead with plans to assist those in legal trouble, and to develop their political strength. The local circumstances differ: many of the men arrested in Adrian, for instance, do not identify as gay and have been reluctant to receive lesbian and gay support, while the men harassed in Iowa had immediate access to an already

active network of activists. But in each case, activists have sooner or later made police interventions a public issue.

"If one would find the common pivot point, it would be freedom of assembly and association," said Hyde, commenting on the Ohio, Iowa, and Michigan cases. She also said she thought it was significant that resistance has developed in places other than the large citics traditionally associated with lesbian and gay activism. "It's a situation of the movement having reached communities where 10 years ago we wouldn't have thought it possible," said Hyde.

Piechocki agreed, saying of those involved in the Lima raid, "If we were in the closet our cover's been blown." She said she was determined to keep the new Stonewall group going, whatever the difficulties. "I'm not going to let it fall," she said.

-filed from Boston

#### COMMUNITY VOICES

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Ail letter and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for Inclusion at the end of the article.

Because GCN wishes to encourage dialogue and a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, printing of "Speaking Out" contributions received from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" appear in GCN recently may be postponed temporarily.

For editing purposes, it is helpful to be able to contact you easily -- please enclose your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article. Thanks.

Send to: Community Voices/Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" contributions are those of the author and are not Intended to represent the views of the GCN staff, Board or membership.

#### New support group

Dear GCN:

We would like to take this opportunity to inform your lesbian readers about a new support group that is forming. Beginning in mid-October, through the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, we will offer a support group for lesbians who are survivors of sexual assault. This specialized group is offered in recognition that the issues of intimacy, institutional resources and community support for lesbians may be different than for heterosexual survivors. In addition, many lesbians

may feel isolated in a support group with heterosexual women. This group is available to lesbians who were assaulted prior to coming out, after coming out, targeted for rape because of their lesbianism; assaulted by a man or a woman. The group will focus on the long-term healing process after rape, therefore the assault should have occurred more than one year ago. We are lesbians and survivors ourselves, trained in the area of counseling for sexual assault survivors.

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center offers a variety of groups which are available to women survivors of sexual assault. For more information about the lesbian survivor support group, or any other groups offered, please call BARCC at 492-RAPE.

On behalf of the Boston Area Rape Crisis

Maria C. Altamore, M.Ed. Betsy McNamara, MSW

#### Please help!

Dear GCN:

As part of my graduate studies in Clinical Psychology at the University of Delaware, I am investigating how our community responds to the AIDS epidemic. To do this, I am asking lesbians and gay men to fill out an anonymous questionnaire. I am seeking a variety of people, so your input is important no matter how much or how little you have been touched by the epidemic. If you can spare about a half hour and would like to help, please write for a questionnaire. Write to: Deb Cohen, Dept. of Psychology, Wolf Hall Room 220-B, Newark, DE 19716. Please let me know if you'd like more than one copy -- I'd be happy to give you enough copies for your lover, roommate, softball team, etc. Thanks so much for your help.

Deb Cohen Newark, Del.

#### Set the record straight

Dear GCN:

A recent issue of GCN included a letter to the editor from Carol P. Wessling, a member of the 1990 Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee. (See *GCN*, August 17-31, 1990.) She took issue with remarks I made in a speech at the rally following the march. I feel I must respond to set the record straight (so to speak).

• Ms. Wessling seems to feel that I was permitted" by her to speak because I represented PWAs. That is not correct. No one on the Pride Committee had any idea that I was HIV-positive. I was elected by the members of ACT UP/Boston to speak as its representative. I was not chosen because of my HIV status. I personally made the decision to come out as a PWA because I realized the Committee failed to include a PWA in the roster of speakers.

• In her letter, Ms. Wessling decries the gay community's poor job of selecting speakers. I feel strongly that she should not blame her lack of responsiveness on the gay community. She and the other Committee members were charged with the responsibility of coordinating the program. When it became apparent that not one PWA was on the agenda of speakers, whether intentional or not, the committee should have taken steps to correct this very serious omission.

• Finally, one other distressing part of her letter was her statement that she considered rescinding her offer to some people to speak simply because she, personally, was angry. I suggest that Ms. Wessling should not base such an important decision on emotions but rather on a reasoned approach of inclusion and full representation.

I simply want to repeat here what I said to the more than 70,000 gay men and lesbians on the Boston Common on the issue of the Pride Committee's failure to ensure PWA participation in the program:

"I encourage next year's committee to not make this same mistake, but to include PWAs fully and completely in this process. The lesbian and gay community's commitment to PWAs and HIV-positive people is unwavering. It must lead our agenda at lesbian and gay pride celebrations."

Sincerely, Benjamin Incerti Boston, Mass.

#### Tokyo

Dear GCN:

We have begun fighting for gay rights in Japan for the first time. We are sending a copy of our leaflet to lesbian and gay organizations, publishers, and individuals all over

Although Japan is a free nation which has made a very big success economically, the Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors ected by the membership

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the was and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to vofun-

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lesbian and gay movement in Japan has been very small and latent. That is because society has compelled us to keep isolated and silent and think negatively of ourselves. But now we know that we can no longer stand it.

We need your support in order to keep on fighting the powers that be. We would like to receive copies of material on lawsuits related to the use of public facilities by homosexuals, government guidelines on the use of public facilities, especially by homosexuals, the legal approval/disapproval of homosexuality, or any gay fight against homophobia.

We would also like you to report on this fight of ours in your magazine or newsletter. Please send us a copy when it has been reported.

We would also like you to write a letter of protest to the following people on the Board of Education of Tokyo: Tadao Ishikawa and Tadashi Mizukami, c/o The Board of Education of Tokyo, 3-5-1 Marunouchi Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100 Japan.

We would be glad if this fight becomes a chance for us to be united with gay people in your country, and for you to get to know about gay people in Japan. Included is a copy of our leaflet on our fight against the Board of Education of Tokyo.

Fifteen of us, most of whom are still legally underage and not able to earn much, are planning to make a tour next summer in order to study the lesbian and gay movement in New York. We would appreciate it if we can stay with gay activists in New York so that even those of us who are still very young and cannot afford to spend much on their trip may learn a lot directly from the activists. We would also like to know what kind of activities or programs your group will be supporting next summer.

We can be reached at OCCUR, 4-2-9-13 Chuoh, Nakano-ku, Tokyo, 164 Japan. We are looking forward to your reply. Please take care.

Sincerely yours, Hiroshi Niimi Tokyo, Japan

#### Relationships don't seem to last very long

Dear GCN:

I'm a gay male prisoner, 26, who tested positive for HIV in 1984. Last year I was diagnosed full blown, but am still hanging in there. I have been in prison for 1 year and I have 1 more year to complete. I have been incarcerated for writing checks for insufficient funds. Not a terrible crime, but still, I broke the law and must repay my debt to society. Most of the monies I received for the checks I wrote were for medicine and doctor bills. I do not consider myself a bad person at all, I just made a mistake at a tough time in my life. If the checks wouldn't have amounted to so much money, I wouldn't have received a prison sentence at all. I am currently incarcerated at the California Institute for Men. I am in a special unit which is segregated from the rest of the general population. The unit I am in houses up to 200 people. Out of all these people, about 10 percent are straight men. There are no barriers between us though. Everyone here is in the same situation and we all realize this. There are always a couple of bad apples in the barrel, but that is just a fact of life an any instance. There are people here in every stage of the virus and there have been some who weren't lucky enough to make it out of here (a real shame!). But on the other hand there are quite a few people who do make it out, although some come back from lack of "coming out" resources.

Anyway, the atmosphere here is similar to other prisons. Relationships happen frequently but don't seem to last very long, due to people being released or maybe it has something to do with the virus. I hope this is the kind of information you were looking for.

Thank you, Kevin Whipp D-29768 PO Box 500 323-L Chino, CA 91708

#### Prisons not coping with AIDS crisis

Dear GCN:

The prison here is trying to ignore my illness (HIV) and staff members have informed me that they believe I am trying to use my health concerns for "favoritism". Unfortunately, I am the only known person at this institution with HIV.

I am writing now because of an article

## AIDS, prison and hopelessness is a deadly combination

By Daniel Trzebiatowski

Having HIV/AIDS is undoubtedly a challenge. Having HIV and being behind bars only adds to our helplessness, hopelessness and isolation. But what we frequently and comfortably tend to let escape us is the reality that we have choices available to us, whether in society or behind walls of confinement. We are the only ones who can make the choice of whether we want to be a person living positively with HIV/AIDS in prison or a person dying with this disease in prison.

We cannot look to the federal or state governments for compassion and support. They conceive that being a prisoner strips us of all our rights, both human and civil. And being an inmate with HIV only supplies them with the inhumane excuse to let us exist without rights, without adequate medical care, and to exist and die without dignity.

We can choose to pity ourselves because we have HIV and because we are prisoners, but isn't being behind steel bars enough! Do we need to reinforce our confinement by adding additional barriers?

Whether we have long or short sentences, placing blame on our "time" for hopelessness is a copout. When we were out on the streets we were not provided with the luxury of unlimited time to live, to live free. This being the case, we should be living each day as if there is no tomorrow coming. Being behind walls is no exception.

Since we are free from some of the responsibilities and obligations that crowded us on the outside, we can concentrate totally on ourselves. A luxury many don't have.

Many of us were unaware of our HIV status before coming to prison and were ignorant when we tested positive. The prisons have often done nothing to help us understand what was going on, so we feel threatened, isolated and lost. Now is the time to start bringing down the walls surrounding our lack of knowledge about the disease, those living with the disease, and ways in which we can live positively and successfully with HIV/AIDS. It can be done, no matter

how hopeless it may seem at times. We do not have to fall into and accept the "victim" role that our government, prison administration, and our own sense of helplessness tend to string in front of us.

As with any learning process we have to look to our own experience and strength in order to learn to stand on our own two feet and risk those first few steps. We can't afford to let our fear of being "found out" hamper our efforts. We can first look within the system for AIDS information and supportive resources. But at best, these will be very basic, and often non-existent. Our best bet is to look to outside resources. Since many of us are unfamiliar with what outside resources are available, and fear to have revealing material such as AIDS info sent in to us, we may allow another wall to enclose us unnecessarily. As inmates, however, we have some resources of our own.

Here at Rochester, a handful of us initiated an info gathering mission by going through the pastoral care dept. and the infection control dept. Through these departments and with a lot of determination. we started to compile some needed outside resources. But instead of having the resources mail info back to us personally, we had them mailed back through the departments named. This also gave us some extra pull in the eyes of the resource agencies. Now we have an impressive HIV/AIDS resource library available for our use.

By the time we established this we realized there was a small number of men determined and concerned enough to take the initiative and some risks in order to improve their situation. So we decided to take another chance and form an HIV support group, which became known to known to no one else, including the administration, other than as a grief support group. This has not only improved our emotional well-being but has been the main factor in our remaining supportive and united with each other.

With this united, empowered force we continue to grab onto the things which we

need. This month we are inviting the Minnesota AIDS Project in to hear our views and needs as prisoners with HIV. Through this relationship we have also developed a "buddy" program, in order for us to receive regular and confidential visits, and letter/phone correspondence to discuss our issues openly and honestly. It also looks as if I will get approval from the BOP [Federal Bureau of Prisons] to give an HIV/AIDS person perspective inservice for both the general population and the staff.

Though this may seem far-reaching for many, the point here is that we can accomplish many more of our goals than we give ourselves a chance to! Whether we want to develop a friendship with another HIV positive person, track down some AIDS info brochures, or start a support group, you will be surprised how much can be done if you only really try.

It's not easy. It takes time, patience, hardwork, determination and spirit. And often we will want to give up because of the endless red tape, rejection and feeling of helplessness. But we took risks on the street. Now it's time to take some life-improving risks on the inside. It's our choice.

Reality reminds us that some of us will die in prison/jail, and some of us will die because of HIV/AIDS complications. In the end, though, it is not how long we lived, but how we chose to live.

Daniel will be completing his sentence in October, 1990, and will be establishing a National Correspondence Network for HIV positive prisoners. He will be developing a correspondence network for those prisoners who can't write each other. For letters that are sent via his network, postage needs to be included to help cut costs. Daniel can be reached at the address below. With your help we can make this a success. He can be reached at: Daniel Trzebiatowski, 02577-089, Box 4600, Rochester, MN 55903.

that appeared in the Louisville Courier-Journal in August entitled "Prisons not coping with AIDS crisis." This problem is nationwide. It is at your own back door.

Here, for example, after I saw an outside doctor, who immediately put me on AZT, members of the prison staff found they had the authority to countermand the doctor's orders on superficial grounds. This is just an example of what prisoners need to go through in dealing with their administrations. There are several other incidents that I have been required to tolerate without proper institutional control involving discrimination by residents and staff (haircuts, staff jokes, etc. etc)

If you wish to learn more about how HIV positive people are treated in this system, feel free to contact me. I am willing to take a stand for myself and for any PWAs who are afraid to speak up about the way we are

Sincerely, Mykel Westermeyer 93812, Hwy 146 LaGrange, KY 40032

#### To clarify

Dear GCN:

I wanted to correct a few misunderstandings contained in Laura Briggs' recent article regarding the Burroughs-Wellcome legislation

After months of negotiation, activists, representatives of the pharmaceutical industry, and various state officials reached an agreement that resulted in the withdrawal of \$2018, proposed legislation which would have severely restricted consumer access to experimental drug protocols. The crux of the agreement is that whenever a request for a protocol is filed, the Department of Public Health (DPH) will notify the pharmaceutical company of the request. However, access to protocols remains as it was.

Contrary to the article, the issue of the industries' access to the courts was beyond the scope of the working group. The industry can, and always could, go to court at any

time and for any reason to obtain a restraining order preventing the release of a protocol.

Also beyond the scope of the working group was the question of which protocols were reviewed by DPH. DPH did not agree to forego systematic review of protocols; the working group was told that DPH never had, and would not in the future, routinely review all protocols. DPH would only review a protocol if it was conducted by a for-profit institution, conducted in a non-institutional setting, or if it raised a question about health and safety of human subjects.

Finally, the quote attributed to me was taken out of context and leaves the impression that my interest was in appeasing pharmaceutical companies rather than ensuring consumers had continued access to experimental protocols. I was responding to the very real danger that consumer access to protocols would be dramatically restricted. Instead, the industry agreed to something that was considerably short of its original goal. As I said to Briggs, if the industry is satisfied with that very limited change, I will certainly not object to it.

Denise McWilliams
Director, GLAD AIDS Law Project
Boston, MA

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GCN invites you to submit your favorite personal coming-out story for possible inclusion in an upcoming issue. Stories should be approximately one page in length (typewritten, double-spaced) and can be funny, poignant, serious, sad, you name it! Stories must be received by Wednesday, Oct. 3 to be considered for our issue to be published Oct. 12. Stories received after that date will be considered for a proposed occasional

Please send your coming-out stories to GCN Features, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116. Please mark envelopes "Submission." Be sure to include your name, or a pseudonym, topbe published with your story.

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#### Surviving in a world like this

A World Like This Helen Benedict E. P. Dutton, New York, 1990 \$17.95 cloth, 194pp

Reviewed by Ellen Kline

randy is associated with smokefilled dens and subdued conversation by the fireplace. If it were the central character of a novel, that character would be "heroine" of a straight romance (perhaps an office assistant if the intent were "comedic"). The Brandy of Helen Benedict's A World Like This is altogether less likely — and a great deal more interesting. She's a smart, ordinarylooking, under-educated, overweight, selfconsciousteenager, and her associations run mainly to other girls - incarcerated ones, like herself. With a sullen vencer of quasiaccurate street wisdom and an underlying naivete both painful to encounter and endearingly familiar, in many ways Brandy is both heroic and bitingly funny. The drink may be an acquired taste, but Brandy is as immediately engaging as her story. Both are

#### BOOK REVEIW **BOOK REVIEW** BOOK REVIEW

A World Like This is not a women-inprison novel. Neither is it a lesbian novel. It comes from a mainstream (now defunct) publishing house, Dutton, and of the central cast only Brandy could be considered lesbian. Deciding one way or another is not her primary concern (or Benedict's), though both within the Borstal system as well as after release, she chooses to have sex with other girls. What sex she does have is indeed on the page, not cut stage-left, but the heterosex is somewhat privileged by the larger space it occupies, though not neces-

In short, though essentially concerned with women, this novel doesn't cater to any particular audience. Its central preoccupation is the emotional deprivation brought about by economic oppression, and Brandy's ambivalence in naming herself falls under that vision: whether you agree or understand oppressions differently, Benedict makes it easy to appreciate Brandy's qualms. Any teenager with such a background might well be unwilling to apply yet another piece of tainted nomenclature to herself, regardless of experience. Though always blunt about her life, it makes sense that she yet dreams of safety, marriage or at least children, something of her own, permanent. Having said what A World Like This is not, what it is can only be emphasized the more: a pleasure to read, surprising for such potentially grim fare; exceptional in another way, too, for there are barely enough well-done novels to count about adolescent girls with lesbian experi-

Borstal, the Author's Note tells us, was by any other name a prison system for underaged, unwanted children; England's throwaways, with nowhere else to go. Incarcerated with indeterminate sentences, as often for neglect and abuse as their own petty crimes, the girls did their time, got their instruction, and emerged with an education in power's misuse and even less hope of societal success than they had upon entering. Life inside Borstal, its petty rules, stolen pleasures, and spans of unfilled emptiness, presages the slice of society at large to which Brandy has access. With one exception, only the first chapter takes place inside, but Borstal's shadow lingers.

Benedict's interest, like her characters', is in what happens after, and with a background in journalism, ear for dialogue, and natural feel for the pace of the lives described, she creates an absorbing account of working-class England in the '60s. She never patronizes her characters or explains their "ill-adjustment" away. Her achievement rests on her ability to turn from the well-intentioned query (But why does this happen? Who are these children?) that positions the questioner outside, not respon-

Such liberal questions often beg statistics

to spare the questioner discomfort around issues of social complicity. Instead, Benedict hs created a fictional world believable as it is complex, while maintaining one of journalism's primary tenets: dispassionate objectivity. The England of A World Like This is an economically depressed yet visceral dead-end where people hustle for jobs and bodily comforts with equal parts ruthlessness and affection.

The book begins with warden Roanna Reardon's point of vicw, her bleak room emprisoned as her wards': "The beds and tables were bolted down and the cupboards and refrigerator were padlocked....

Though she suspects the girl barely cares for her, Roanna's first affair -- with Brandy brings unlikely hope; Roanna is alive for the first time. Upon hearing of Brandy's impending release, Roanna eats another warden's cake in frustration and lets Brandy be blamed when the loss is discovered, setting back Brandy's sentence another six months. Throughout, Roanna sccks to redeem her actions with fantasies of "improving" Brandy while "knowing" the reality: the girls always return, they're all the same. Roanna wavers between the acknowledgedly selfish urge of redemption to excuse her abuses and her other fantasies, of escape; beyond them lies a greater need to simply accept her actions and their limited but real consequences. It's a dilemma all the novel's characters share.

Upon release, Brandy's world expands to barely wider parameters. She stays in Brighton with her married sister Liz, who tries to impress upon the disoriented girl the importance of finding employment, making good; Brandy barely dares hope she can become a beautician in the salon where Liz works. In conveying Brandy's longing to be ordinary, Benedict never betrays Brandy's highest aspirations by condescending to her ambition or bemoaning its size: as Brandy grows towards realizing her independence, she begins to find the respect from her sister, and herself, which she has deserved all

Tension between Brandy and Liz's husband, Ron, peaks when Brandy leaves their son Bobby unattended one night and sneaks away for a few drinks. (Brandy does plenty of backsliding; her survival skills work against her often as not.) After Ron beats her she sets off, convinced if she can find Jeff, a boyfriend built to mythic proportions during her time at Borstal, all will be redeemed. She barely finds the block she used to live on; their squat has been destroyed. She crashes at her mother's in Birmingham while continuing to seek Jeff. Mary, her alcoholic mother, is completely indifferent to Brandy. Brandy finally tracks Jeff down, but salvation, of course, is not in the works. Meanwhile, contrary to her husband's wishes, Liz takes her son along when she decides to find Brandy and make sure the girl's all right; her arrival at Mary's, coinciding with Brandy's return from Jeff's, conflates the family dynamic, and there's an ugly fight. This time both sisters run back to Jeff and his cronies. Liz lets herself be seduced by one of them, behavior that Brandy, with her own ethical code, finds decidedly squalid. ("Christ! [Brandy] thought, that's all she needed-that wanker getting it on with her sister! God, the world was a load of crap.") Yet Liz's foray into Brandy's world cements a different aspect of their complicated bond; her sense of shared though divergent sexual trespass makes it imperative for Liz to recognize Brandy's difference in other than preconccived, culturally damning terms.

A World Like This is hardly a novel where nothing happens, yet Benedict's descriptions are given with a detached, uncluttered sensibility. These lives, a series of crises, could make a reader feel claustrophobic - yet understanding occurs after the fact, in places almost unnoted, and a certain stillness prevails. Benedict effects internal transitions without pointing and doesn't dwell on characters' interior lives. Chapters roughly alternate between Brandy's perspective and one of the other featured characters' (third person). Often Brandy is left after a chapter and remains out of sight for the next few, but upon her reappearance it will be perfectly clear things have altered, if not exactly how or in what way. The pace is surchanded, considered. Benedict's gift for providing the right detail or framing a

Continued on 9

\*GAY COMMUNITY NEWS • SEPTEMBER 23-29, 1990 • 7

## Christian totalitarianism and lesbian stories

Secrets Leslea Newman

New Victoria Publishers, Norwich, Vt., 1990 \$8.95 paper, 193pp.

Reviewed by Diane Hamer

eslea Newman is a prolific writer who has produced seven books in the last 10 years, had poems and short stories appear in journals and magazines, and run workshops. Secrets is a welcome addition to her body of work and to the short story genre as well.

Newman introduces the collection by asking "What happen when we keep secrets from each other ... from ourselves [and] when we choose to share these secrets?" Each story explores a secret, such as child sexual abuse, lesbianism or violence. Each story uses a different point of view: a child, a teenager, adult women; the voice that works best is the one closest to Newman herself.

## BOOK SHORTS BOOK SHORTS

The title story, "Secrets," is the most painful. It is about a little girl getting obscene phone calls and her fear and excitement at being singled out for this attention. Although the voice sounds forced, the story is still powerful.

In "What Happened to Sharon," ex-lovers meet for the first time after the break-up and Sharon informs Jo that she's engaged to (in Jo's words) "Rick...a hippy-dippy-do-good-social-worker-save-the-world-type." This story offers the best line in the book: "She wouldn't even hold my hand at night on a described street or even in Provincetown where you could hold hands with an octopus and no one would notice." It also has the worst passage in the book:

"What if you have a daughter and she grows up to be a lesbian?" Sharon's eyes filled again. "I'd be awful proud," she whispered. And I tell you, I left a mighty big piece of my heart silting at that table as I turned and walked out the door.

"Perfectly Normal" is a monologue by a woman in a hospital because her husband insisted: "He wants me to put on a little weight." What follows is a harrowing account of a life of fat phobia and womanhatred that has lead up to an anorexic woman's hospitalization.

"The Dating Game," easily the calmest and funniest story in the collection, follows a small crowd of lesbians over a short period of time, especially Chelsea -- who longs for a lover. This one has quite a few lines and scenes that many anxious lesbians will recognize

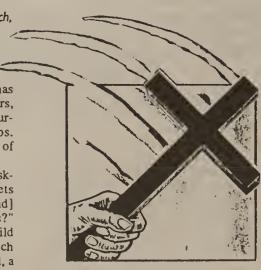
The stories in Secrets are succinct—mostly dialogue and inner thoughts — very full and quite satisfying.

Letting in the Night Joan Lindau Firebrand Books, New York, 1989 \$8.95 poper, 180pp.

Reviewed by Diane Hamer

Letting in the Night covers the ground that few lesbian novels, but more and more gay men's novels, are covering: the loss of a lover to terminal illness. Thad receives word that her first lover, Franco, is dying of ALS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, a degenerative disease that destroys the limbs first, then inner muscles, making it difficult to breathe. Through diary entries and a few letters, Thad relays the reconciliation she goes through when she visits Franco, as they resolve old misunderstandings and rekindle their love affair.

Thad convincingly goes though the stages of denial, anger and acceptance as she copes with Franco's last year. Lindau is very good at depicting the rehashing of decades worth of anger, misunderstandings and love. In just one of many touching scenes, Thad comes down the stairs and finds Franco in the living



...dancing with Cleo [her cat]. Her back is to me.... Her hair is still mussed. Cleo is resting, front paws and chin on Franco's shoulder, looking in my direction but not giving me away. I am a witness to a private moment.... Franco's dancing is a kind of rocking back and forth, left foot, right foot, in time with the music. The music is gay, and the atmosphere partylike. It is delightfully odd.... Franco turns, and I see she is smiling.... "I'm teaching Cleo to dance," she says. "At first she insisted she lead so we tried it that way, but her legs are too short."

Thad returns to California to teach and Franco writes her of the changes in the seasons and the changes in her body. At the end of the semester she asks Thad to return. The end, of the life and the book, is a little too easy, but Letting in the Night remains a meaningful and instructional story.

Spiritual Warfare: The politics of the Christian Right
Sara Diamond
South End Press, Boston, 1989
\$12.00 paper, 292 pp.

Reviewed by John Kyper

Several years ago a series of well-publicized reversals led many commentators to conclude that the religious New Right was on the decline. Jerry Falwell had been roundly rebuked after attacking South Africa's Bishop Desmond Tutu as a "phony," juicy sex and financial scandals had enveloped the operations of Jim and Tammy Bakker and Jimmy Lee Swaggart, and televangelist Pat Robertson's presidential bid had succumbed after a surprisingly weak performance. But recent events have demonstrated that the reports of its demise were, at best, premature.

Ever since I first read Sarah Diamond's book last winter, news reports would keep reminding me of its topicality. In the wake of the Supreme Court's Webster ruling a year ago, numerous state legislatures attempt 10 pass laws restricting abortion. In These Times reports on "Sex Respect," a program that indoctrinates adolescents from Christian schools to "just say no" to premarital sex -- and never to homosexuality. Controversy continues to follow the "obscene" photographs of Robert Mapplethorpe, as the exhibition of his work travels from Cincinnati to Boston.

The front cover of Spiritual Warfare features the graphic of a hand wielding a cross like a bludgeon. This is a supremely apt symbol and the parallels are clear. Just as there were those who used the Bible to rationalize slavery, so today do sophists use religion to excuse and justify as "God-ordained" all manner of evil, from sexism and economic inequity to the tyrant who uses anti-Communism as the cloak for his crimes.

Perry Deane Stone had previously examined the subject in his 1982 book God's Bullies, but he allowed personal quirkiness to distract the reader and color his analysis. Fortunately, this book avoids such faults. It is a well-researched and written expose of the spreading influence and power of right wing fundamentalism, detailing its aims and its programs both here and abroad. It is especially valuable in uncovering the complex web of interlocking organizations and the person-

Continued on 9

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Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

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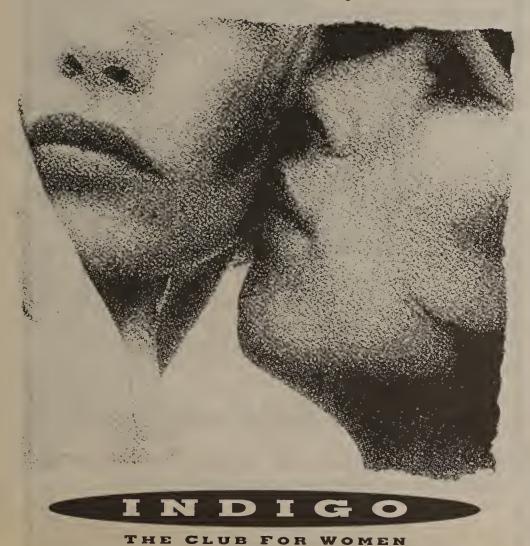
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#### Surviving

moment suggests that pleasure and change originate in the incidental. She makes the ordinary glow. She is particularly good with the child, Bobby, and the family scenes arejust right, too:

Ron got out with much grunting and splashing and lay down in the sun, his belly spilling over and wobbling as he moved. "Whew," he said, and closed his eyes. ...Liz moved over and laid her head on his cool shoulder. Bobby wriggled between them, sucking his thumb with his eyes closed. The three of them lay on the grass, hovering on the edge of sleep while birds and flies moved quietly around them.

Deft management in shifting perspective and pace gives A World Like This the surprising characteristics of a page-turner. It is Brandy's story, but the narrative is closer to "ensemble": Benedict lets everyone be heard. Safe and half-trapped in her moderately successful marriage, Liz in particular is skillfully done, and a host of lesser characters, all freshly drawn, are worthy of attention.

The book's only significant weakness occurs in the person of Brandy's mother. Though she appears in few scenes, it is upon her person that the plot's conclusion devolves, and the mechanism feels clumsy. (Well prepared for, even predictable, but overdetermined nonetheless, with an air of authorial interference and defeated fatalism.) Brandy's mother is full of unwarrented venom towards Brandy, indifferent and indulgent towards herself. She's hard to bear. This is perfectly in keeping with a type of personality, far as that goes, but she alone is given a static portrayal. The following description of Mary through Brandy's eyes, "Standing there all bulgy in her pink dressing gown, her hair straggling damp and orange," is as ungenerous as Mary herself; "Mary didn't want this hulking great teenager mooning about and bothering her...She was clearly a mess." There's no possibility of taking interest in Mary, much less feeling empathy towards her. It isn't that she's unlikeable: she lacks dimension. Mary comes across as completely at odds with the novel's evenhanded tone — she's a statistic without excuse, justification, any sense of history that could matter. Other characters - some criminal, a few brutal, most just incapable of extended self-examination are treated with an authorial attitude that permits the reader some leeway in interpreting their actions and motivations. This attitude is missing in Benedict's treatment of Mary and why it should be the case is puzzling. Unlike the complex relations between Brandy and Liz, or Liz and Bobby, Mary is "related" to no one. It's a very odd

Perhaps Benedict's failure to bring Mary to life is just a fictional misstep. Though there's little use speculating why Mary is given no chance before she ever hits the page, that this is the case — and that the novel's conclusion relies so heavily on the actions of someone presented in only three fairly brief scenes — suggests a structural problem more pressing than that of characterization. But if the problem is not "fictional" — since Benedict has with one jarring exception successfully written a believable world with its own functions and sensibilities — then this lack or absence in the nonperson of Mary instead suggests an intrusion, and extra-fictional dilemma which has been allowed to dictate terms. For Mary is blamed, is the cause, of the untenable conclusion, and it is not at all clear that such an unrelenting attack is relevant in the amoral, lively world Benedict brings into being.

No one person is responsible for a world like this, or one character for another's fate, whatever the likelihoods and probabilities. Probably Benedict was too good a journalist to be easy with so facile a summation as "Society" destroying such lives as Brandy's, and she is entirely too capable a writer to settle for placing her unease at a single character's doorstep. That Mary's later actions seem only half-believable and unwarranted is nowhere near so troubling as their being unnecessary. Benedict has, with great skill, carried forth themes of determinism versus free-will, upbringing and background versus external pressures, conscience and intent versus action: it is precisely by treading so lightly that she binds such themes to the story's body. To then decide them is a disservice to her characters. Blaming Mother is no better than blaming Society- and it's especially distressing in a novel with so many dense relations between women. Speaking

of absence, what about Brandy's father? Silence. Hard to believe Benedict meant to imply immaculate conception.

For the most part, though, impulses to resolve large thematic preoccupations are sidestepped in favor of reality, howevergrim. Despite its disturbing intrusions, the ending maintains some of that perspective. "Reardon wasn't even counting the months -because it seemed that every moment with Brandy could last forever, slow and easy and beautiful the way time can be when you have nowhere to go and no say over your own life." Benedict's lack of sentimentality lends her writing a bleak lyricism, and her characters lose and find themselves with reassuring regularity amid a landscape that barely permits such emotional resilience.

#### Book Shorts Continued from 8

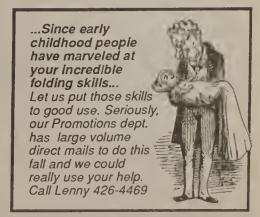
alities that comprise this movement, stripping away much of the mystery that has long prevented outsiders from understanding its inner

Diamond provides a brief overview of the historical antecedents of the "new" Christian right, dating from the early Cold War era when evangelists like Billy Graham and Carl McIntire attained prominence with their apocalyptic call to holy battle against "atheistic Communism." During that period, fundamentalist denominations consolidated their control over the religious broadcasting industry, making it a force to be reckoned with. Such early developments were crucial in fashioning a contemporary ideology and infrastructure, which would propel its phenomenal growth a generation later.

This background is also necessary for understanding why the setbacks sensationalized in the media, followed by Ronald Reagan's departure from the White House, would scarcely impair its effectiveness. Its members are imbued with a vision and a discipline that sustains them in the face of opposition and adversity—unlike those in the 1960s New Left, whose often-unfocussed energies dissipated with appalling speed. After scandals caused a decline in contributions, prominent conservatives including direct mail wizard Richard Viguerie entered into business arrangements with the formerly anathema Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon.

Spiritual Warfare is a timely antidote to the tendency to underestimate the resurgent right wing. Chilling evidence of its potential can be found in the career of General Efrain Rios Montt, the born again dictator of Guatemala in the early 1980s and now a leading candidate for that country's presidency. He is a member of Gospel Outreach, a fundamentalist sect that has dispatched street preachers to "witness" to San Francisco's gay community, inciting violence against those whom they condemn as "sinners." According to Rios Montt's many supporters in the United States, harassing gay people at home and slaughtering peasants abroad are all a part of God's work on earth.

As this book convincingly demonstrates, those who ignore the connections do so at their own risk. Make no mistake about it: We are dealing with a totalitarian movement, one that dictates how its members will think and act just as it seeks to enforce its will upon the rest of society. It will not rest until it has accomplished this goal. According to its worldview, those of us who are gay or lesbian are entitled to no rights because we have no right to exist. Forget their sanctimonious "love the sinner but hate the sin." If conversion fails, past inquisitions have shown that extermination is the next logical step.









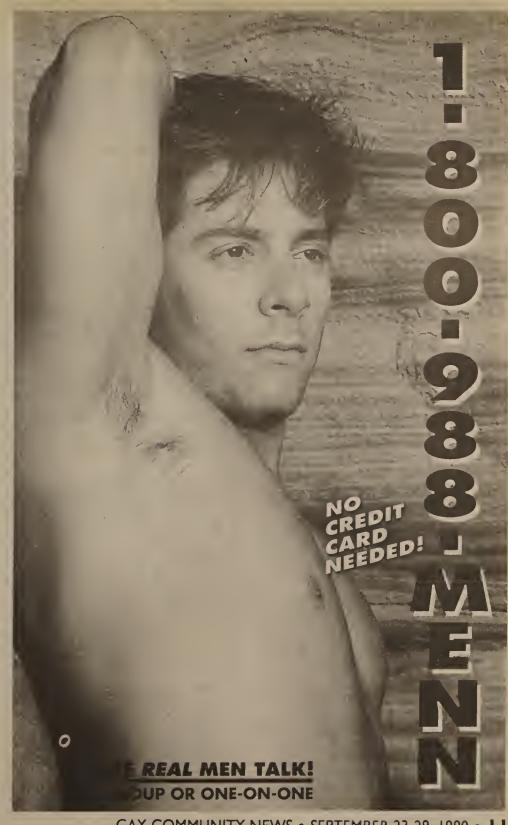








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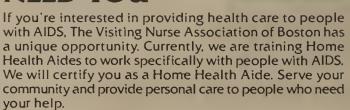
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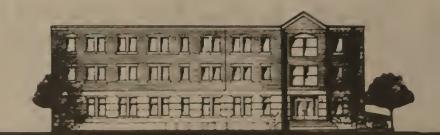
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#### MARLBOROUGH

LF 33 sks quiet friendly L for 2BR home on lake. W/D, fireplace, nice yard, garden. No smk, must like cats. \$400+ avail 9-15. (508) 481-8548. (11)

#### **BROOKLINE**

BiF seeks F 28+ for 2 BR condo. Clean, quiet, sunny, modern, near T. Roof deck, hardwood floors, W/D, off-street parking avail. \$500 incl. heat/h.w. Call Lisa/Kathy 731-6869. (11)

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Independent easygoing LF seeks same to share apartment. Smoker OK. Pets OK, near T. available 10/1/90. \$463 includes heat. First and last. Call 524-

Sublet Oct-Dec possibly more. 2GM looking for M/F. Brownstone near T. Dishwasher, W/D, E1K, Diningroom, Lygroom, Fireplace, Room w/ porch. \$450 w/ hthw. Call Lyn 277-4471. (11)

#### **TEELE SQUARE** 2 LFs seek third to share 3 bedroom apartment near Tufts and Davis Square T. Non-smoker preferred.

Landlord won't allow pets. \$317 per month plus utilities. 623-3414. Leave message. Available 10/1. (15)

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WORCESTER LF & 2 cats seeks LF for large sunny apt. Wraparound porch, garden, off-street parking, w/d. \$285 plus util. No smoking. Avail 9/1. (508) 753-9066.

2 L's in independent, but friendly JP house seek 2 more . No smoking. \$239.50 and \$265.00 per mo. Close to orange and green lines. Available 9/1and 9/15. Please call 983-0599. (20)

WATERTOWN

3 LF's seek 4th for our coop, political, cozy and goofy home. Near orange and green lines. \$225+ for Nov. 1st call 522-9351.

LF non-smoker, neat, semi-veg. for sunny, quiet, safe 2nd-fl. in house in Watertown near Cambridge/Waltham bus. Porches, parking, W/D, NO MORE PETS. \$425+. Call 923-9087. (12)

#### 10/15 or 11/1. Call 666-8118.

LF seeks LF for spacious five room apartment, two porches, hardwood floors, no smoking,drugs,pets. \$382.50 plus utilities. Avail. immed. Call Laurie

#### IAMAICA PLAIN PONDSIDE

LF, 36, seeks roomate(s) for light, airy pondside apartment. BR or BR + study plus great common space including fireplaced LV, DN, renovated

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We have an opening for a third roomate to share rent and expenses. We are located in Dorchester, on the Red line. Safe neighborhood, and on street parking. Call 288-4468 or 426-4469 (ask for Frank). Rent is \$400 per month plus util. and phone. Short-term ok!

2 LF's plus 2 cats seek 3rd for beautiful East

#### ROSLINDALE

LF/GM wanted to share lg. sunny house wr/dr, d/wr, pool paddle/volley ball ct. near T & comm. rail. \$383+. Avail. 10/1. Call cathy, david, melton at 325-3819 or 323-1084.

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LF seeks spiritually-oriented, open woman to share beautiful 2BR apt. with yard, woodstove, W/D, porch. \$400. includes heat. Avail. Oct 15/Nov 1.

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2 lesbians & cat seek 3rd for large 3 floor apt.Off street parking. Alcohol & chem free. Steps to buses, 10 min to Harvard Sq. Avail. 10/1. 385+. 923-4370.

1L, 2GM, 1 cat looking for 1L to share 4 bdrm apt. No alcohol, no drugs. Near T. \$200/month plus util. \$200 security deposit. Call 926-9577. (12)

#### JAMAICA PLAIN

2 LFs looking for L/BiF for 3 bdr. in Davis Square. \$261+. 3 minutes from T. Non-smoking. Available

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kitchen, two porches, HW floors, lots of windows. Semi-veg preferred. \$333 or 500 for 1/3 or 1/2 share. Available now. Call 522-4033. (11)

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#### **EAST CAMBRIDGE**

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**BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER** Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 584 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

#### **BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY** AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 1-800-42-BAGLY for info.(15.32)

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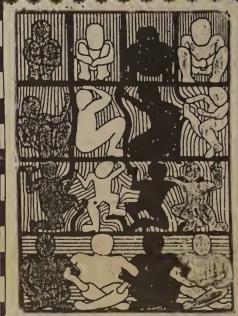
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TO ALL THOSE, IN & OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE. Mexander Berkman. Prison Memoirs of an Anarchise



BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER is a gay men's; organization for men of all colors. They have groups in many cities. They don't always have a property projects, but they should, no? prisoner support projects, but they should, no? So drop them a line and encourage them to get involved and help fight racism in the Amerikk-kan prison business. For more info write: BWMT, 584 Castro St, San Francisco CA 194114, or MACT (Men of All Colors Together), Box 148, New York, NY 10023.

#### 

**BLACK PRISONERS!** Black prisoners who have been sexually active with other men (in or out of prison) are wanted to participate (by I'm looking for people interested in writing mail) in an anonymous study about for friendship. My interests are drawing, mail) in an anonymous study about your health concerns and AIDS. NO ONE will know your personal answers. You need not fill in your real name. All information is strictly con-

(Will long and personal survey about high school level reading skills), please write to the following address for the questionnaire. We are willing to pay postage if you are able to receive a stamped & addressed return envelop in the mail. Otherwise it will cost about \$1.50 to return the questionnaire. Please write to: Dr. Vicki M. Mays, BLACK CARE PRO-JECT, 405 Hilgard Ave, 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles CA 90024-1563.

VIOLENCE AGAINST GAY/LESBIAN PRISONERS?

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force is doing a big report to the Congress and others about violence against gay men and lesbians. This report may help to change people's minds about paying no attention to prisons and other places of violence against us. If you have seen instances of violence DUE TO ANTI-GAY/LESBIAN or to AIDS prejudice, please send them to Kevin Berrill, NGLTF, 1517 U St. NW, Washington DC 20009, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! (He's writing the report now.) He needs to know these kinds of things: verbal harassment or physical assaults! with weapons or not? police helpful or not? related to gay/lesbian or to AIDS or both? doing a big report to the Congress and others

gay/lesbian or to AIDS or both?

GM serving term for embezzlement. looking to meet other GMs similarly situated. Can't write Cal. prisoners. Into bright lights, big city and fun! Wayne CATE, C-35091, PO Box 8101 Rm 7283, San Luis Obispo CA 93409\_

Extremely funny Texan is totally bored with the women's max security routine. Wishes to die with my pen in my hand writing to out of state prisoners, preferably thieves. Let's do some mail-order bonding! Kathy HOLLENBECK, 921720-643, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

I am looking for an older masculine lesbian. I'm not allowed to write other prisoners. I'm 33, blond, needing to be loved and spoiled. Debbie PRUITT, 3086-79, Pee Wee Valley, KY 40056.

I'm at Rikers Island in NYC and need some mail, please. My name is "Kandi", and I'm French and Puerto Rican and would like mail from any gay black or hispanic females. I'm also into working out and weights. Patricia ALVAREZ, 349-90-27918, Bldg 11, RMSC-PC, 19-19 Hazen St, East Elmhurst, NY 11370.



GM, 27, average build, average to cute looks. I am a passive individual doing time, looking for someone to help me pass the time here with friendship. My friends here call me "Fancy" but I have to be written to under this address: Johnny D. FANCHER, 316046, PDU, Snyder TX 79549

GM looking for penpals. Love TS, and TV. Will and can write other prisoners. Am handsome with long love muscle. James MAYHEW, C94813, PO Box 2000 L324,

Vacaville CA 95696\_ GM wishes to correspond with GM who likes the great outdoors. Seeking friendship and possible relationship. Non-violent and can write other prisoners. Richard WICK, 27975, 700 Conley Lake Rd, Deer Lodge MT 59722.

24 yr old gay and handsome male, would like to write others. Am able to write prisoners also. Chris BLOSSER, 182437, PO Box 779, Marquette MI 49855

painting, writing, exercising and doing the best I can do. Karl Justin PAIGE, PO Box AG, 78B 571, Fallsburg NY 12733.

STUDMASTER: long and fat cock, hairry balls, do erotic stories and drawings. Need a If you are willing to fill out a fairly daddy in your life? Write me now! Tommy BLANKENSHIP, 195152, PO Box 788, Mansfield OH 44901\_

GM, 25, HIV pos, seeking penpals. Into hiking, swimming and bowling. I'd like to keep in touch with outside world. Robert Ray WHITE, D-30210, SPU-376-U, Box 500, Chino CA 91708.

Looking for a nice warm man to write, who would accept me for me and who will not hold it against me because I am doing time. I love to write, love the outdoors and beachs James HAMILTON, 105642, PO Box 514, Granite, OK 73547.

Age 31, would like to correspond with straight forward GM. Will not play games and don't want to be played on. Looking for a lasting relationship. Charles HAWORTH, 98692, Box 514, Granite OK 73547.

To all that care to answer! I love to think of you as beauty and me the beast! My hobbies are running, dancing, and sports. Most of all a loyal and open companionship. Julius PANTHER, 96939, BOX 514, Granite OK

73547. Born a lover of men, I'm searching for a devoted lover to share life with. I've dated older men since 13, but now want to settle down with just one. I'm eligible for parole in 1991 but need a sponsor to help me find work and housing. Please give me a chance. Jeffrey Lee SWANN, 38650, PO Box 2800, Lincoln NE 68502\_

4 • SEPTEMBER 23-29, 1990 • GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

## Cambridge ◆ Yard Party to Defeat Jesse Helms. Speaker black activist Mandy Carter from Senate Race '90 in NC. Discuss organizing coalition in Boston. At J.Firestone's house. 67 Pleasant St. \$20 donation more if/less if. For more info 576-6788. (Pictured right Mandy Carter) Calendar listlings must be received by the Center, 338 Newbury St. 6 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged. Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings and put each event on a separate sheet. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows. We regret that we cannot print every submission. No phone calls, please!

#### 22 SATURDAY

Keene, NH ◆ Lesblan Fail Conference. Monadnock Area Womyn. Lunch and child care available. \$10 requested. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Info: Marty (603) 357-5757.

Cambridge • "90,000 AIDS Deaths: Love Lights the Night." Candlelight remembrance walk. Bring a picture of your loved one. Begins at AIDS Memorial Quilt, Johnson Athletic Center, M.I.T. 8 p.m. Info: 859-7635.

Boston ♦ Triangles: A Clean and Sober Dance for the Lesblan and Gay Community. Sponsored by Boston Sound Machine. \$5. YMCA, 140 Clarendon. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Info: 846-9061.

Central MA ◆ Hike with Chiltern Mt. Ciub and AIDS ACTION Committee: John Paul 489-1301.

Cambridge ◆ Romanovsky and Phillips / Judy Fjell. Paine Hall, Harvard University. 8pm. \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door (on or before 9/21). Info: 497-2758.

Jamlaca Plain > Nicole Hollander Fan Club. Tag Sale Fundraiser. Proceeds to lesbain affinity group [NHFC] to fund political work. For more info Sue Dorfman 524-1793.

#### 23 SUNDAY

Salem ◆ NSGLA Singles Fest Picnic. Bring your own picnic; couples also welcome. Forest River Park overlooking Salem Harbor. Noon. Info: (508) 745-3848

Dorchester ◆ Todd and Michael's Silent Movie Night: Douglas Fairbanks action comedies. 7 p.m. Info: 288-0391

Hamilton ◆ North Shore Blcycle Tour. Chiltern Mt. Club 26 mile ride, Info: Gloria 547-

Boston ◆ Lesblan and Gay Writing: Where Do We Stand? Sponsored by the Caucus for Gay and Lesbian Writers of the Boston Local of the National Writers Union. The Center, 338 Newbury Street. 2 to 5pm. Info: Wayne 353-1925.

#### 24 MONDAY

Cambridge ◆ Gay and Lesblan Academic Study Seminar at MIT. Info: Ed 547-9487 or Waverly 524-9250

Boston ◆ Ballroom Dance for Lesblans, Gay Men, and Friends. 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.: Lambada and Dirty Dancing (beginner, level 1). 8:15 to 9:30 p.m.: Swing Intensive (beginner, level 1). Week 3 of 3. UMass Boston, 250 Stuart Street. Info: 859-9455.

Cambridge TV ◆ PrideTime Travels: "Gay Key West Revisted" — with Jim Voltz and Cynthia Pape. Cambridge Cable Channel 19. 7 p.m.

Arlington ◆ Second Animation Celebration. Included are early Simpsons cartoons. The Celebration runs 9/24-9/27. The Regent Theatre. 7 Medford St. 5pm, 7pm, 9:15pm. \$4. For more info 643-

#### 25 TUESDAY

Boston ◆ "Your Medical Provider and You: Bullding a Cooperative Relationship." FCHC Living Well Series. 338 Newbury St. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Pre-register: Paul 267-0900.

Boston ◆ The Center Reading. Readings by local authors Jonathan Strong, Marcie Hershman, and Kim Vaeth. The Center, 338 Newbury St, room 203. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

Cambridge ◆ Swing, Foxtrot, and Waltz Lessons for Lesblans, Gay Men, and Friends. Beginner Level I. Week 4 of 4. YMCA at Central Sq., 820 Mass. Ave. 8 to 9 p.m. Info: 859-9455.

Cambridge ♦ Volces from the Men's Movement. Readings and songs by Chris Austil, Rick Goldin, and Steven Riel Cambridge Center for Adult Educ., 56 Brattle Street, Harvard Sq. 8:15p.m.

#### 26 WEDNESDAY

Boston ◆ Greater Boston Business Council. Socialize with other lesbian and gay professionals. \$5 admission to help defray costs. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Refreshments 6 to 7 p.m.; presentation by John Nicoli, VP Fundraising for the Center, and Ann Sanders, Mayor Flynn's liaison to the Lesbian and Gay Community, 7 to 8 p.m. Info: 695-1634.

Boston ♦ New Group for Lesbian and Bisexual Women Graduate Students. First meeting. The

Boston ♦ Vote No on Question 3! Lesbians and gays interested in working to defeat the CLT referendum are invited. Boston City Hall Room 801 (enter through City Hall rear doors). 7 p.m. Info: Gay and Lesbian Labor Activists Network 522-5448.

Boston ♦ Coming Out Group — First Meeting. The Center, 338 Newbury St., room 202K. Sign up: 247-2927.

#### 27 THURSDAY

Boston ◆ Orlentation to AAC Supports and Services. An overview of the services AIDS Action Committee provides to seropositive and asymptomatic people, to clients, and to their caretakers. Boston Living Center Library. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Please preregister: 437-6200 x328.

Boston ◆ Whollstic Health: A Way of Life: "Yin and Yang." \$5. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon St., 7th fl. 6 to 8 p.m. Info and registration: 267-0900.

Jamalca Plain ◆ Ballroom Dance for Lesblans, Gay Men, and Friends. 6:30 to 7:30pm.: Swing, Foxtrot, and Waltz (beginner, level 1). 7:30 to 8:30pm.: Cha Cha, Mambo, and Samba (beginner, level 1). 8:30 to 9:30pm.: Tango, Rumba, and Merengue ( beginner, level 2). Week 4 of 4. Firehouse Arts Center, 659 Centre St. 6:30 to 7:30pm. Info: 859-9455.

#### 28 FRIDAY

Boston ◆ The Center Film Series: "Andre's Mother" — Screening and Play Reading. Drama exploring the relationship between a gay man's mother and his lover, both dealing with his AIDS death. Screening preceded by a dramatic reading of the short play version. 8 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

Brookline ◆ Kol NIdre. Am Tikva, Boston's community of lesbian and gay Jews. Handicap accessible. Brookline H.S., 115 Greenough St. (Brookline Hills T). 8 p.m. Donation requested: \$20 members, \$30 nonmembers, includes all three High Holiday Services. Reservations required. Donations and reservation requests: Am Tikva, P.O. Box 11, Cambridge 02238 to be received by 9/15. Info: 782-8894.

Cambridge ◆ "Just Feelings: Poems by Alma Guadaiupe." Book signing reception. Indigo, 823 Main St., 8 to 10pm. Info: Cyndie Barone, 783-0212.

#### 29 SATURDAY

Concord, NH ◆ CAGLR Planning Meeting. Steering Committee of NH Citizens' Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights meets to set goals and priorities for the coming year. CAGLR office, 3 Pleasant St., second fl. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Brookline ◆ Ne'llah/Ylzkor. Am Tikva, Boston's Community of Lesblan and Gay Jews. Light Break Fast after service. Brookline H.S., 5 p.m. See Kol Nidre listing 9/28 for info on location, donations, reservations.

Boston ◆ Eartha Kitt. (The Catwoman from TV's "Batman.") A benefit performance for the Fenway Community Health Center Building Project. Berklee Performance Center. 8 p.m. Tickets \$24.50 and \$19.50. Purchase them through Ticketmaster 931-2000 or FCHC 247-CARE.

Boston ◆ A Night with Guy Baldwin (with Whipping Demonstration and Discussion of Psych. of SM). Presented by dreizehn. \$3 donation to benefit AIDS related services. Ramrod. 8:30 to 10pm.

Boston ◆ Queer Nation Marches to Stop the Hate. Bring something that makes light or noise. March begins in front of the Cyclorama, Tremont between Berkeley and Clarendon. 9pm. Info: 623-6201.

#### 30 SUNDAY

Cambridge ◆ Yard Party to Defeat Jesse Helms. Speaker: black lesbian activist Mandy Carter from Senate Race '90 in NC. Refreshments. 67 Pleasant St., near Central Sq. 3 to 6p.m. Suggested donation \$20. Info: 576-6788.

Boston ◆ Dancing In Time. A five-hour dance-athon to benefit AIDS Action Committee. Lady D from KISS 108, Barry Scott from WZLX, and Tai from WFNX with music. Info and pledge sheets: 266-2906.

Boston TV • "Between Takes: MIchael Guy.: Award-winning documentary program focuses on a Rhode Island artist who is a gay community activist, founder of the monthly newsletter Options and an activist in Rhode Island Project/AIDS. Boston Cable channels 3 and 8. 9:30 p.m.

#### OCTOBER I MONDAY

Boston ◆ Bicycling Lesbians Around Boston: Planning Meeting. Info: Kathy 625-6478.

#### 2 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ Rally to Protest Anti-Gay Violence. Sponsored by the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil

Rights. On the State house steps; if rain, inside in Doric Hall. 5:30 to 6:30p.m. Info: David 828-3039.

Boston ◆ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston: "AIDS ACTION Committee: AIDS Update." Guest speakers. Lindemann Ctr., 25 Staniford St., Revere Rm., 2nd floor. Info: 742-7897.

Cambridge ◆ Tango, Rhumba, and Merengue Dance for Lesblans, Gay Men, and Friends. By New England Dance Movement Center. Beginner, Level I. YMCA at Central Sq., 820 Mass. Ave. 8 to 9 p.m. Week I of 4; \$37 for series. Info: 859-9455.

#### 4 THURSDAY

Boston ◆ Wholistic Health: A Way of Life: "5 Element Theory." \$5. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon St., 7th fl. 6 to 8 p.m. Info and registration: 267-0900.

Jamaica Plain ◆ Dance for Lesblans, Gay Men, and Friends. By New England Dance Movement Center. Three classes each evening; each costs \$3 sequence of four classes. At the Firehouse Arts Center, 659 Centre St. Swing, Foxtrot, and Waltz, Beginner Level II, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Country Wrn, Beginner Level I, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cha Cha/Mambo/Samba, Beginner Level II, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Session I of 4. Info: 859-9455.

#### SUNDAYS

Boston • The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30am. Lesbians and gay men.

Boston ◆ BAGLY Drop-In Center. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. Info: (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ◆ AMALGM Monthly Men's Meeting. Last Sunday of each month. The Center, 338 Newbury St., room 202K. Info: 247-2927.

Boston ◆ ALATEEN Group open to lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, 22 and under. 338 Newbury Street, rm. 202k. 6pm-7:30 p.m. Info: Dave 629-2518 or Frank 666-8912.

Somerville ◆ GLOSS: Gays and Lesbians of Somerville and Surroundings. Monthly potluck. 71 Union Sq. 6 p.m. First Sunday of each month. Info: Lisa, 628-2532.

Beverly ◆ North Shore Lesblan/Gay Parenting Support Group. Meets 1st Sun. of each month. First Parish Unitarian Church. 225 Cabot St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: 593-5252.

Boston ♦ Boston Healing Circle. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30 p.m. Info: 731-9584.

Boston ◆ Gay Narcotics Anonymous. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

#### MONDAYS

Boston ◆ Monday Night Dinners for PWA's and Friends. About 100 people with AIDS and their friends meet every Monday at AIDS ACTION for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AIDS ACTION, 131 Clarerdon St. Info: 437-6200.

Dorchester ◆ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Meeting House Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Boston ♦ Coalition for Lesblan and Gay Rights holds bi-weekly planning meeting. The Center, 338 Newbury Street. 7 p.m. Info: 776-6956.

Worcester ◆ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. Info: (508)755-3773.

Boston ◆ Northern Lights Alternatives Monday Night Rap Group. Talk to others living with HIV. 38 Appleton St. 7:30-9 p.m. Info: Ann O'Rourke 694-0964

Cambridge ◆ Lesblan Rap Group. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

#### TUESDAYS

Providence, Ri ◆ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Framingham • Framingham Gay and Lesbian Youth Group. People 22 and under, meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month. Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: write P.O. Box 426, S. Framingham, MA 01701.

Boston ◆ Boston Coalition for Black Lesblans and Gays. 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Harriet Tubman House. 6:30 p.m. Info: 825-2610.

Boston ◆ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Charendon St. 7 p.m. Info: 49-ACT UP.

Boston ♦ Gay Men and Lesbian Support Group for Adult Children of Alcoholics. Ten-week group

beginning 9/4/90. Faulkner Hospital. 7 to 8:30 p.m. weekly. Intake interview required. Info: 522-5800 x1908.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesblan Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexuai Women's Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. Info: 354-

Medford Radlo ◆ "We the People" -- with femenist Sheila Parks. WMFO 91.5FM. 7-9 a.m. Tufts University radio.

Worcester ◆ Support Group for HIV+Gay/Blsexual Men and Their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

Arlington ◆ Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets on the second Tuesday of every month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 547-2440 or (508) 562-5807.

Boston ◆ Lesblan and Gay Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 266-0628.

Cambridge TV ◆ Pride Time -- Boston gay and lesbian television, with Jim Voltz. Cambridge Cable Channel 19. 7 p.m.

Cambridge ◆ Women For Sobrlety, a self help group for women recovering from addictions. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-9:30 p.m. 354-8807

#### WEDNESDAYS

Boston ◆ Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesblan Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6 p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30 p.m. 523-7363 or I-800-42BAGLY.

Cambridge ◆ Lesblan Al-Anon with child care, wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

Worcester ◆ Supporters of Worcester Area Gay and Lesbian Youth. Open to gay and bisexual youth 21 and under. Meets first and third Wednesday each month at United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd. 7 p.m. Info: (508) 755-0005.

Worcester ◆ Support Group for HIV+ who are In Substance Abuse Recovery. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

Boston ◆ Coming Out Support Group. At the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 338 Newbury St. Second and fourth week of each month, starting 9/26. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

#### **T**HURSDAYS

Boston ◆ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center dropin group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Boston ◆ Names Project Quilting Bee — for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Sewing supplies and support provided. Arlington Street Church (use Boylston Street entrance). 6 to 9 p.m. Info 451-9003.

Boston ◆ The Coalition for Lesblan and Gay Civil Rights. Meets every Thursday. The Center, rm 202K. 338 Newbury St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: 828-3039.

Portsmouth, NH ◆ Out and About. A lesbian social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

Boston ◆ The Group. Discussion and social hour.

The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 266-1129.

#### FRIDAYS

Boston ◆ GCN Friday Night Stuffing Party. Come stuff the paper, eat pizza, and make new friends. GCN, 62 Berkeley St. 5 p.m. Info: 426-4469.

#### SATURDAYS

Cambridge ◆ Single Mothers' Support Group. Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 1 I am-1 2:30 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

Boston ◆ Pink FlamIngos. For TV/TS of New England. Every Saturday, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. Info: 247-2927.

#### ONGOING

Boston ◆ AAC "Dancing in Time" (Registration). Register now and begin collecting pledges for a five-hour dance-a-thon to benefit AIDS ACTION Committee. Hynes Convention Center Ballroom. September 30. 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Registration or more info: 266-6906.

#### Texas

Continued from page 3 fell short of what the students wanted. Specifically, the policy failed to require nondiscrimination clauses of corporations and others (such as the military services) that recruit on campus. And so far the administration has issued no instructions to the university departments for implementing the policy.

A second event was particularly welcomed not only by gay men and lesbians on campus, but by African-American students and progressives in general. A well organized campaign resulted in the election of Toni Luckett, an out-of-the-closet, politically radical African-American lesbian, to the office of Student Association president, an office dominated for years by white fraternities and sororities. (See GCN, May 27-June 2, 1990)

#### Defining 'radicalism'

The new gay activism at UT embraces two distinct forms of radicalism that have coexisted, not always harmoniously, throughout the history of the modern gay movement: the radicalism of the outrageous and of open, explicit sexuality; and the radicalism of inclusion and breadth of political effort, in the tradition of leftist coalition building.

If the late August kiss-in and the safe-sex demonstration were expressions of the former, actions the following week attempted to promote the latter. For each of four days, a noon-time rally concentrated on a single theme from several different perspectives: "The War at Home" dealt with domestic violence, harassment and the effects of poverty on different communities; for Steven Biko Day, a "Liberation Education" shanty, representing the several communities involved in the current political activities, was erected next to the existing shanty protesting apartheid; "The War Abroad" addressed militarization and the links between the proponents of war and domestic oppressors; and "Health Issues" included AIDS, women's health questions and health problems associated with work, including the effects of pesticides on farm workers. The culminating event was a Friday night march through Austin's entertainment district, co-sponsored



Students built a Liberation Shanty during a week of demonstrations in early September

by University ACT UP and Austin ACT UP, to publicize the Philip Morris boycott.

Organized jointly by a number of campus groups, the rallies reflected the strong role played by a number of lesbians — and a few gay men — in progressive campus politics. In a shift from previous gay politics at UT, lesbians have been at the forefront of recent specifically gay organizing.

'In the early '90s we can talk about 20 years of feminist publishing, feminist activism, feminist work in different areas," said Pedro Bustos, a Mexican gay activist currently studying at UT, where he helped found QUEERS. "There is more presence of women in these activist groups and there is more presence of women particularly in the gay and lesbian community," he told GCN. "Right now, in Austin at least, the lesbians are in the vanguard."

"Speaking just for me, I'm not entirely sure that white, middle-class gay men have learned anything yet," added Kathy Mitchell of University Lesbians (UL). "Even the most radical gay-specific actions on this campus have been for the most part organized, developed and represented entirely by the lesbian

With the rise of activism here, a healthy diversity of opinion has developed among lesbian and gay activists on campus. Within a few days of the QUEER kiss-in and the fashion show, students John Boardman and Ken Whitter announced they had formed a more moderate group, University Lambda, as an alternative. "We have allowed others to speak for us when we should have been speaking for ourselves," the two wrote in the Daily Texan. "The shock of last week's rally has shown us our error."

Mitchell told GCN that while she welcomed yet another new campus gay organization, Lambda was hopelessly assimilationist. "We are never going to be assimilated," she said. "The larger community, especially as it stands today, no matter how we're dressed, no matter where we teach, no matter what corporation we earn our high salary from, will always slander us as gays. I think it's a natural development to be queer and outra-

#### Making the connections

Daniel Contreras, of Todos Unidos, the umbrella Chicano organization responsible for ONDA, said gay actions like the kiss-in at least "create a space" for the radical politics of inclusion and coalition building. "But gay and lesbian radicalism," warned Contreras, who is also a GLSA member, "needs to include ideas of race and ideas of gender and ideas of class, and we cannot call ourselves

gay and lesbian radicals until we have thought and done work and rigorous analysis on those issues."

"They're trying to connect the issues," said gay activist Peter Chua, "but they're doing it from their own perspective of 'Let's have two weeks of rallies dealing with lesbian issues and when that and somebody else's issues interconnect, we'll see if we can fit it into the schedule.' That's problematic."

Donna Surrat, an African-American member of UL, agrees that the effort to link struggles has hardly begun. "The question," she said, "becomes going to BSA or other groups that may be concerned primarily with racial equality and trying to encourage them to educate themselves on homophobia and heterosexism and how that is affected by racism and classism.

"I haven't really seen a consistent effort to deal with that," said Surrat. "I think that the people involved in doing the actions this week are committed to dealing only with their own issues, like, 'Oh, I'm against intervention in Latin America but I refuse to deal with my own homophobia,' or 'I'm gay but I refuse to pay attention to struggles of people of color around the world.'

At least one organization, Todos Unidos, has taken steps to deal with homophobia and heterosexism during readings and discussions held over the summer. But Contreras questions whether Anglo gay activists are willing to reciprocate by actively supporting struggles important to Chicanos and to labor. (For instance, most of the individual activists questioned by GCN said they personally were observing the United Fruit Workers (UFW) boycott, but, so far, no campus gay organization has taken an active part in supporting it.)

"The Anglo Gay and Lesbian Students Association came up to me and said I shouldn't drink Miller beer or smoke Marlboro cigarettes because of the boycott against Philip Morris," said Contreras. "I said I would follow that and my organization, Todos Unidos, would follow that if [the GLSA] came out publicly in support of the [UFW] boycott against grapes. I think they were just kind of dumbfounded."

NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN TASK FORCE

## CHANGE



LENARY HIGHLIGHTS:

BARBARA SMITH, Black lesbian feminist writer and activist. Founder of Kitchen Table, Women of Color Press

DR. C.T. VIVIAN, CIVI Rights octMst, aide to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Chairman of the Board. Center for Democratic Renewal.

KATE CLINTON, feminist humorist

MIDWEST ACTIVIST PANEL on

Skill Building. ovember 9-12, 1990

he Third Annual National Conference for Gay and

Lesbian Organizing and

Holiday Inn Metrodome 1500 Washington Avenue South

Minneapolis, Minnesota

RE-CONFERENCE INTENSIVES (November 9, 1990)

Fundraising Institute People of Color Organizing Institute



#### **SEE IT AND UNDERSTA**

Free Admission. For information call the NAMES Project/Boston at (617) 451-9003.

It started as a simple idea- a quilt to commemorate those who had lost their lives to AIDS. In 3 years, people from around the world have made over 12,000 panels for relatives, friends, coworkers, and lovers they have lost. Today the quilt is larger than 8 football fields.



The International AIDS Memorial Quilt is coming to Cambridge. September 21-22-23,1990, Johnson Athletic Center-Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Red Line T Kendall or

